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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 664

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...it. I don't think they care to have any oversight from the Department of Insurance. So, to wrap up this debate on the Bourne amendment, this...I don't see that the bill poses a threat to...to the group plan that they have out there. Perhaps it can make it more efficient. If it does and they continue the plan as it is but (inaudible) some cost savings then that money could go to teacher salaries. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. As a former school board member of a small school, you know, I'm kind of worried about this. I'm worried that for small schools opting out, having the alliance not be as strong as it was before will actually hurt small schools. If you have larger schools with good experience ratings pulling out of the alliance I'm afraid that that option won't be there for rural Nebraska. I think I agree with Senator Beutler in his thoughts on how we're working to increase compensation for teachers and at this time this is probably not the way to go to also maybe put at risk the part of the compensation that's working quite well for teachers in the state. And so I'm in support of the Bourne amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a puzzling issue for me. I would like to ask Senator Bromm a couple of questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bromm, would you yield?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bromm, the structure of this bill is based on voluntariness on the part of every entity that might be interested in joining this pool. Is that correct?